

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 EPA-04 HUD-02 COME-00
DOTE-00 HEW-06 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 SOE-02
DODE-00 EB-08 INR-10 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00
PM-05 ICA-20 SS-15 SP-02 DOE-15 INT-05 /144 W
-----074102 272035Z /66

P R 271917Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0763
INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 13752

USOECD

USEEC, DEPT PASS EPA, HUD, COMMERCE, DOT, FDA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, OECD
SUBJ: TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND 22ND PLENARY OF OECD
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - WRAPUP

REF: PARIS 13607 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: MAJOR U.S. OBJECTIVES WERE ACHIEVED
AT THIS MEETING. DETAILS OF THE BROAD INTERNATIONAL
TOXIC CHEMICALS PROGRAM DEVELOPED AT STOCKHOLM AND
IN THE CHEMICALS GROUP WERE WORKED UP AND APPROVED,
AND A 1979 PROGRAM WAS HAERED OUT WHICH CONTAINS
ALL THE ELEMENTS WE SOUGHT. NOISE AND TRANSFRONTIER
POLLUTION RECOMMENDATIONS WERE APPROVED, AS WAS A
COMMENTARY ON NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND
A MANDATE TO CONTINUE CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE
NEA. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE 22ND SESSION OF THE OECD ENVIRONMENT COM-
MITTEE CONCLUDED APRIL 26. THE U.S. DELEGATION
WAS HEADED BY PATSY T. MINK, ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR OES.

3. ON THE KEY ISSUE OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES, U.S.

OBJECTIVES WERE ACHIEVED AS THE COMMITTEE ACCEPTED THE PROGRAM OF PRIORITY WORK OUTLINED AT THE STOCKHOLM MEETING (STOCKHOLM 1483) AND DEVELOPED IN DETAIL AT THE SUBSEQUENT SESSION OF THE CHEMICALS GROUP (PARIS 12993, NOTAL).

4. DETAILS OF THE ARRANGEMENTS AGREED UPON ARE REPORTED IN REFTEL. IN SUMMARY, THEY INCLUDE INAUGURATION OF A NEW PART II (I.E. EXTRA-BUDGET) ACTIVITY IN ADDITION TO THE CORE ONGOING CHEMICALS GROUP PROGRAM, AND PROVISION FOR THE CHEMICALS GROUP TO MEET AS NEEDED AT HIGH LEVEL IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT TO THE TOTAL INTEGRATED PROGRAM AND DRAW POLICY CONCLUSIONS AS APPROPRIATE.

5. TWO DETAILS: THE JAPANESE RESERVATION ON THE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS REFERRED TO IN REFTEL WAS SATISFIED WITHOUT MAKING ANY CHANGES IN THE AGREED MECHANISM; SECOND, THE DATE OF THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF THE PART II PROGRAM MAY BE CHANGED FROM JUNE 20, BUT WILL STILL BE HELD DURING THE WEEK OF JUNE 19. APROPOS, THE DIRECTOR STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPANTS BEING OFFICIALS WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE DECISIONS AT THE MEETING AND, IN EFFECT, COMMIT THEIR COUNTRIES (SUBJECT OF COURSE TO FINAL COUNCIL UNCLASSIFIED

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APPROVAL OF THE PROGRAM). HE ADDED THAT IF KEY COUNTRIES WERE ALREADY PREPARED TO COMMIT SPECIFIC AMOUNTS OF RESOURCES AT THE JUNE MEETING, WORK COULD IMMEDIATELY BEGIN EVEN THOUGH ALL PARTICIPANTS WERE NOT YET ON BOARD FINANCIALLY.

6. NOTE: WITH REGARD TO THE JUNE MEETING, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE U.S. PARTICIPANTS BRING WITH THEM A FIRM, DETAILED IDEA OF EXACTLY WHAT THE U.S. THINKS THE PART II PROGRAM SHOULD ENTAIL BOTH AS TO SUBSTANCE AND COST.

7. 1979 PROGRAM - WE WERE ALSO ABLE TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON A 1979 PROGRAM WHICH SATISFIES OUR MAJOR OBJECTIVES. IT INCLUDES TWO OF THE TOP THREE NEW PROGRAMS WE DESIRED (TOXICS IN THE

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NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 ICA-20 SS-15 SP-02
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ATMOSPHERE AND LONG TERM URBAN FUTURES). ADDITION-
ALLY, A NEW PROJECT WILL KEEP THE WATER MANAGEMENT
GROUP ACTIVE. VARIOUS PARING AND SQUEEZING WILL
BE REQUIRED TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEW ACTIVITIES. HOW-
EVER, OUR KEY OBJECTIVE OF MAINTAINING VIABLE
ENERGY-ENVIRONMENT WORK, PART I CHEMICALS, AND
URBAN PROGRAMS WAS ACHIEVED.

8. THE COMMITTEE APPROVED THE DRAFT COMMENTS ON
THE POLVANI REPORT AND RELATED NUCLEAR WASTE
MANAGEMENT ISSUES (ENV (78) 10) - WHICH INCLUDED
A GOOD DEAL OF U.S. MATERIAL - TAKING IN THE
PROCESS A GENERALLY STRONG STANCE IN FAVOR OF CON-
TINUING TO WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH THE NEA ON
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RELATED TO THE OCEAN DUMPING
PROGRAM (E.G. MONITORING). IN ADDITION, THE COM-
MITTEE ASKED THE SECRETARIAT TO WORK WITH THE NEA
TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM ON KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN
PARAGRAPH 6 OF ENV (78) 10. THE COMMITTEE'S VIEWS
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WERE REPORTED TO THE CONCURRENT MEETING OF THE NEA
STEERING GROUP BY THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND THE
HD OF THE DIRECTORATE. THE THREE MAJOR ENERGY

REPORTS SITING, CLEAN FUELS, AND HEAT PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION) WERE ALL COMMENTED ON FAVORABLY. COUNTRIES MAY SEND IN ANY FACTUAL AMENDMENTS TO THESE REPORTS PRIOR TO MAY 31, AFTER WHICH THEY WILL BE SENT TO COUNCIL FOR PUBLICATION.

9. URBAN ISSUES: REFERENCE WAS MADE TO THE U.S. PAPER WHICH HAS NOW BEEN CIRCULATED AS A COUNCIL DOCUMENT (C (78) 50). IT WAS NOTED THAT THE SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVE IS TO HAVE THE PROPOSAL TO CREATE AN AD HOC GROUP CONSIDERED (AND APPROVED) BY THE COUNCIL IN MAY. RICHARD FLEMING, HUD REPRESENTATIVE, USED THE OCCASION OF THE MEETING TO EXPRESS TO THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY HARRIS' STRONG INTEREST IN THE OECD WORK ON URBAN ISSUES AND HUD'S DESIRE TO SHARE FULLY WITH THE OTHER INTERESTED MEMBERS THE EXPERIENCES IT GAINS UNDER THE U.S.'S NEW URBAN INITIATIVES.

10. NOISE: THE REPORT OF THE AD HOC GROUP ON NOISE (ENV (78) 1) WAS APPROVED FOR EARLY PUBLICATION. THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATION ON NOISE ABATEMENT POLICIES (ENV (78) 2) WAS TAKEN UP LATE ON THE LAST DAY AND SEVERAL COUNTRIES (INCLUDING THE U.S.) RAISED A VARIETY OF ISSUES ON SEVERAL OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS. THROUGH A MIRACLE OF NEGOTIATING AND DRAFTING EFFORT, COMPROMISES WERE REACHED ON ALL POINTS AND THE RECOMMENDATION WAS ULTIMATELY APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE COUNCIL.

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11. OTHER: THE REPORT ON TRAFFIC POLICIES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT (ENV (78) 18) WAS PRESENTED BY THE U.S. CHAIRMAN OF THE EXPERT GROUP AND RECEIVED VERY POSITIVE COMMENT. IT WILL BE SENT TO COUNCIL FOR DERESTRICTION.

12. THE TRANSFRONTIER POLLUTION RECOMMENDATION (ENV (77) 4U) WAS TRANSMITTED TO THE COUNCIL WITH GENERAL FRENCH AND BELGIAN RESERVATIONS AND SPECIFIC SPANISH ONES.

13. THE COMMITTEE'S FIRST ATTEMPT AT A ROUNDTABLE ("FORUM") DISCUSSION WAS INTERESTING, BUT NOT DRAMATIC AND RATHER LOOSELY FOCUSED. ANOTHER ROUNDTABLE MAY BE HELD AT THE NEXT SESSION, ON A SUBJECT STILL TO BE SELECTED.

14. FAIRCLOUGH OF THE UK WILL STAY ON AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, POSSIBLY UNTIL THE FALL MEETING, AT WHICH TIME A NEW CHAIRMAN WILL BE ELECTED.

15. NO DATE WAS SET FOR THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT SESSION, PENDING THE RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL EXTENDED BUREAU MEETING BEING HELD APRIL 27 TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR THE EARLY 1979 ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTERIAL. SALZMAN

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